DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Raman Pillai, you have given a very wide and interesting survey of the problems before us. It is impossible to deal with each one of them now, at the moment; but I can assure you that they will come up in due course and will be considered carefully one after another. One or two points you have raised for which I may give a reply now.

About the enhancement of the Anchal rates, it is too early to say whether this enhancement will result in a bigger income or not. The rates have only recently been enhanced.

The Retrenchment Committee's proposals will all be very carefully considered and they will be justly applied.

The Land Mortgage Bank is only in its very early stages, and it is no doubt true that, with experience, it will be possible to make it more useful to the people.

There is also no doubt about the importance of hydro-electric investigations, and I am confident that we will be carrying on these more and more in the near future.

The other points will be carefully considered.

2. Certain defects in the assessment of wet lands in Nanjinad.

MR. R. KALIAM PILLAI (*Tovala taluk*) said that the tax on wet lands varied with different taluks, the maximum rates being levied in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram. In the same Division itself there was wide disparity between the rates of assessment in one taluk and those in another. When the wet lands in Nanjinad were surveyed in 995 M. E., there was no uniform standard to determine the extent of one *kotta* of seed-sowing land. In certain places it was taken to be 67,200 square feet while in others it was taken to be 53,750 square feet, but the assessment in each case was made on the *kotta* basis. At the last Settlement, one *kotta* of seed-sowing land was taken to be equivalent to one acre and all the lands were surveyed accordingly and assessed on the acreage basis, while the rates of assessment were based on the old standard. So much so, what was fixed as the assessment for one *kotta* of land according to the old measurement, which was more than one acre in extent, was fixed for one *kotta* according to the new measurement *i. e.*, one acre. This was the chief reason for the heavy assessment in Nanjinad.

A second reason was that the rates of assessment were based on the pre-Settlement rates. While in other parts of the State, these rates were modified by reducing or increasing them to the extent of 10 per cent. the rates in Nanjinad were practically left undisturbed.

Thirdly, there was no uniformity in regard to the grain measures adopted at different times. From 989 M. E. one *kotta* was regarded as equivalent to 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* and one-half of the assessment was first commuted into money on this basis, the commutation rate being fixed at 6 chs. a *para* of paddy. Still later, one *kotta* was considered as

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equivalent to 8 *paras* and 8 *edangalies*, one *para* being equal to 640 cubic inches. At the last Settlement, the *kotta* measure underwent a further change and was fixed at 8 *paras* and 6½ *edangalies*, one *para* being equal to 800 cubic inches. The land measure also was defined at the Settlement by fixing one *para* of seed-sowing land as equivalent to 14 cents. The rates of assessment were calculated on this basis in all parts of the State except Nanjinad and Shencotta. It was not known why a *kotta* of seed-sowing land also was not fixed on the acreage basis. It would only be fair if instead of taking 1 *kotta* of land as equivalent to one acre, it was made equal to 7½ *paras* of seed-sowing land and 1 *kotta* of grain measure also be standardised like that. The assessment should also be fixed on this basis. If the assessment had been fixed like that at the Settlement the Nanjinad ryots would have had no grievance.

Again, there was no justification in having varied rates of assessment in the taluks of the same Division. The tax on wet lands in the old Padmanabhapuram and Trivandrum Divisions was commuted into money in the same way *viz*., half at 6 chs. a *para* and half at 11 chs. a *para* of paddy. Such being the case, there was no justification in having different rates of assessment in the several taluks. Whatever rates were adopted in one taluk should be adopted in other taluks also. The average assessment per acre of wet land in the whole State was Rs. 2 ch. 26 c. 2 while the average rate in Nanjinad was Rs. 12 per acre, the minimum rate being in the Kunnatnad taluk *viz*., Rs. 1¼ per acre. Steps should be taken to reduce this wide disparity.

In conclusion, the member prayed that the land measure in Nanjinad be adopted on the same basis as in other parts of the State by fixing 1 acre as equivalent to 7½ *paras* of seed-sowing land instead of fixing 1 acre as equivalent to 1 *kotta* of seed-sowing land. Secondly, the assessment on single crop wet lands should be fixed in terms of the standard *para* as varying from 7 times the seed-growing capacity to 2/5 of that, there being 14 *tarams* of assessment. Similarly, the assessment on double crop wet lands should be fixed as varying from 10½ times the seed-sowing capacity to 3/5 of that there being 14 *tarams* in their case also. From the rates so fixed *tarisu* allowance should be made for the areas covered by bunds, etc. The commutation also should be made on the above basis.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kaliam Pillai, all the points which you have mentioned have been noted by Government; and they will and can only be considered at the next Settlement.

3. Registry of poramboke lands and commutation rate fixed for tax on pandarapattam lands.

MR. KANDA PILLAI KALI PILLAI (*Chirayinkil taluk, Group I*) spoke about the difficulties experienced by the people in regard to *porambokes* adjacent to registered holdings. In the old records the boundaries of registered holdings adjoining rivers, canals, etc., were described with reference to such *porambokes*. In demarcating these *porambokes*, the demarcation stones were planted well inside the adjoining registered holdings in order that the stones might not be washed away by the rivers or canals. In the case of lanes, the

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